

New claim 27 recites, among other features, a check valve member and a manually adjustable member comprising a housing. The claim further recites that the check valve member is in the air passage and is normally closed but allows inhalation through the air passage. As noted above, the Office Action points to the spring element 28 in Persson as being the claimed Check valve member. However, the spring element 28 is normally in the open position as opposed to the claimed check valve member which is normally in the closed position. Indeed, Persson states that "the valve member in FIG. 3 comprises a spring element 28 of an elastic material, **which collapses and seals when pressed down towards the filter, for example by means of a finger.**" (page 5, emphasis added). Thus, the spring element is only closed when a positive pressure is applied to the spring element. Therefore, Persson does not disclose a check valve member which is normally closed as was specifically recited in original claim 14 as well as new claim 27.

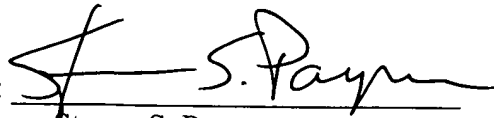
Finally, claim 27 recites that the housing establishes a free air flow through the air passage at inhalation as well as exhalation. The abstract of Persson discloses a filter housing 10. The filter housing, however, does not provide a free air flow through the air passage at inhalation as well as exhalation. Thus, Persson does not disclose the recited housing recited in Claim 27. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 27 is not anticipated by Persson for at least the reasons set forth above.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 16-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The claims (now claims 28-37) have not been rewritten in independent form since it is believed that the claims depend from an allowable independent claim.

Applicants also enclose a certified copy of Swedish patent Application No. 9902074-5 from which priority is claimed.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of same is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview may expedite the prosecution of the Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the below attorney at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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